

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE
WASHINGTON, DC

FSIS NOTICE

46-08

7/10/08

EXPORT OF BEEF AND BEEF PRODUCTS TO KOREA

THIS NOTICE CANCELS FSIS NOTICE 45-08 DATED 7/9/08.

I. PURPOSE

This notice provides information about the export of beef and beef products to Korea. In particular, it sets out:

- what products are eligible for export to Korea;
- what products are ineligible for export to Korea; and
- the certification requirements and that a Statement of Verification (SOV) letter is no longer required to accompany exported beef and beef products to Korea if the slaughter dates are on or after the establishment's Quality System Assessment (QSA) Program approval date.

II. ELIGIBLE ESTABLISHMENTS AND PRODUCTS TO EXPORT TO KOREA

A. Korean beef importers and U.S. exporters have reached a commercial understanding that, as a transitional measure, only U.S. beef from cattle less than 30-months of age will be shipped to Korea. The Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) has set up a voluntary QSA Program to verify that beef from participating plants will be from cattle less than 30 months of age. Exporting establishments may choose to participate in the AMS QSA Program that verifies that the beef being certified is from cattle less than 30 months of age.

1. For establishments that participate in the AMS QSA Program, the following statement can appear in Remarks on the FSIS Form 9060-5: "The beef or beef products were produced at a verified establishment under the USDA Less than 30 Month Age Verification Quality System Assessment (QSA) Program for Korea."

2. Participation in this program is not required for issuance of the FSIS 9060-5. However, at this time, Korea will not accept at port-of-entry shipments of beef without

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the QSA Program statement in the Remarks section of the FSIS 9060-5, and Korean quarantine officials will return shipments without the statement to the owner/agent of the product.

3. A list of AMS QSA Program approved establishments and their approval dates can be obtained from the AMS website at:
<http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/ams.fetchTemplateData.do?template=TemplateM&nAvID=GradingCertificationandVerification&leftNav=GradingCertificationandVerification&page=QSAPProgram>

B. Eligible beef and beef products, including bone-in beef, deboned beef, offal, and variety meats, are to be derived from cattle slaughtered on or after the slaughter establishment's QSA Program approval date and need to be produced under an approved AMS Export Verification (EV) program for beef to Korea. Federally inspected establishments producing beef and beef products intended for export to Korea need to participate in an AMS, EV program and be listed on the "Official Listing of Eligible Suppliers for USDA Bovine EV Program". Inspection program personnel can access the list at: <http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/getfile?dDocName=STELPRD3105269>

NOTE: FSIS personnel can view eligible product lists by establishment in Outlook at: Public Folders/All Public Folders/OFO/Export Verification Program and on the FSIS intranet: <https://inside.fsis.usda.gov/fsis/emp/static/partnerweb/index.jsp>.

C. In addition, deboned beef products from cattle less than 30 months of age that were processed at eligible establishments before October 5, 2007 are eligible. The beef is to have been produced according to the AMS EV program in place at the time of production. A list of these eligible establishments and their specific periods of eligibility are available at:
<http://www.ams.usda.gov/AMSV1.0/getfile?dDocName=STELPRD3105269>.

NOTE: Information about approval of warehouses, cold storages, or similar facilities that export beef and beef products to Korea can be obtained from FSIS Notice 39-07 (Jun 26, 2007; PDF only).

III. INELIGIBLE PRODUCTS

Under the current EV program described in II.B. above, the following products are ineligible for export to Korea:

1. beef and beef products derived from cattle imported from Canada for immediate slaughter;
2. beef and beef products derived from cattle imported from Canada that were resident in the U.S. less than 100 days prior to slaughter;
3. Processed beef products.

IV. LABELING REQUIREMENTS

Labels applied to Porterhouse steaks and T-bone steaks are to include a notation that these cuts come from animals less than 30 months of age.

V. CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

A. Beef and beef products from eligible establishments with slaughter dates on or after the establishment's QSA Program approval date are to be accompanied by:

1. FSIS 9060-5 (MPG series dated 07/19/2001 or MPH series dated 12/14/2006) Meat and Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness. For establishments that participate in the AMS QSA Program, the following statement can appear in Remarks on the FSIS Form 9060-5: "The beef or beef products were produced at a verified establishment under the USDA Less than 30 Month Age Verification USDA Quality System Assessment (QSA) Program for Korea."

2. FSIS Form 9305-7, dated 07/08/2008, Certificate for Export of Beef and Beef Products to the Republic of Korea.

NOTE: Inspection program personnel can obtain this form in Outlook at: Public Folders/All Public Folders/Agency Issuances/Forms/FSIS 9000 Series.

3. For this product AMS will no longer provide a SOV letter, and such a letter is not required to issue export certification.

B. Boneless beef from eligible establishments and with processing dates before October 5, 2007 are to be accompanied by:

1. FSIS 9060-5 (MPG series dated 07/19/2001 or MPH series dated 12/14/2006) Meat and Poultry Export Certificate of Wholesomeness. The following statement must be typed in the Remarks section: "These products were derived from cattle under 30 months of age at the time of slaughter and were slaughtered before October 5, 2007, in accordance with the EV program for Korea and stored in the United States."

2. FSIS Form 9305-4 (06/07/2006), Certificate for Export of Beef and Beef Products to the Republic of Korea.

NOTE: Inspection program personnel can obtain this form in Outlook at: Public Folders/All Public Folders/Agency Issuances/Forms/FSIS 9000 Series.

3. FSIS personnel can view eligible product lists by establishment in Outlook at: Public Folders/All Public Folders/OFO/Export Verification Program.

4. A Statement of Verification letter from AMS is required as part of the export certification process for product produced before October 5, 2007 (see FSIS Notice 19-06).

5. For product certified for export to Korea prior to October 5, 2007 and stored in the U.S., replacement certificates are to be issued according to FSIS Directive 9000.1, to add the new statement shown in paragraph V.B.1 to the Remarks section of FSIS 9060-5. The Statement of Verification issued by AMS at the time of the original certification is acceptable to allow issuance of replacement certificates in this case.

VI. INSPECTION PROGRAM PERSONNEL RESPONSIBILITIES RELATED TO EV PROGRAMS

A. If FSIS inspection personnel become aware of concerns that a USDA approved EV establishment is not properly executing its EV program, they are not to issue an export certificate for the product in question, and they are to notify their immediate supervisor and AMS at: ARCBranch@usda.gov.

B. The message to the immediate supervisor and AMS is to include the following: included in the message:

1. establishment name, address, and establishment number;
2. product type, product code, and quantity of product;
3. date of production, lot number, and shift;
4. date and nature of observation;
5. name of country product is intended for export;
6. export certificate number (if applicable);
7. any other information to verify claim;
8. name of inspection official

Refer questions to the Policy Development Division at 1-800-233-3935 and follow the prompts for questions about exported product.



Assistant Administrator
Office of Policy and Program Development